

## **Considerations for Districts Declining Title I Funds**

### **Accountability Considerations**

*If a district declines Title I, Part A, funds, would the district still have to meet the requirements of NCLB?*

Districts that decline Title I, Part A, funds are excluded from specific requirements associated with being in Title I District/School Improvement (i.e. public school choice, SES). However, it is important for a school district to consider the following accountability issues before declining Title I, Part A funds:

NCLB requires that all **states** receiving Title I funds ensure that schools and districts assess all students in reading/language arts, math, and science; make AYP determinations; and ensure that all teachers are highly qualified.

DESE is still required to identify ALL schools and districts for “improvement”, regardless of Title I status and to publish information regarding the AYP and “improvement” status of each district and school.

Districts that receive any NCLB funds must meet the requirements regarding:

- unsafe school choice
- access of military recruiters
- certification that no policies interfere with constitutionally protected prayer
- equal access to Boy Scouts
- highly qualified staff

### **Financial Considerations**

*If a district declines Title I, Part A funds, what are the financial implications?*

In many districts, the Title I, Part A allocation accounts for a significant portion of the district’s budget. The loss of such allocation may cause the district to reduce teaching staff, instructional coaches, reading specialists, and supplemental services such as tutoring. Title I, Part A funds also provide other resources to school districts including classroom space, equipment, and materials. In addition, the district’s Title I, Part A allocation impacts the potential allocation of other federal programs. For example:

- Title I School Improvement money funds are only available to participating Title I buildings that have been identified for improvement.
- Title II, Part D, Subpart 1 – If the state chooses to distribute 50% of funds available to districts as a formula grant, the funds would be distributed according to the district’s share of Title I, Part A, in the current year.
- Title IV, Part A – 60% of funds available to districts is distributed according to its share of Title I, Part A in the preceding year; and
- Reading First (Title I, Part B, Subpart 1) – a district’s minimum subgrant is based on its share of Title I, Part A funds in the preceding year. A district that declines

Title I, Part A funds would not be guaranteed a minimum subgrant. However, it would not be automatically ineligible.

Maintenance of effort, equitable services to non-public students, and Supplement, Not Supplant requirements still apply for other NCLB programs.